

Regular Session of Village Council

April 21, 2026; 6:00 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor Mitchell Fisher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll Call was completed by Solicitor, John Kaspar. The following members were present.

Emmalee Cartwright
Jim Frederick
Martin Hamlin

Richard Hardin
Samantha Pitzer

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to adopt the March 17, 2026 Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All yea.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Monthly Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements, Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were provided for Council.

Chief John Moenster – Salem-Morrow Fire Department

Chief Moenster updated council on a couple of projects the Fire Department and the Village are working on: hydrant inspections and the outdoor warning siren. The Fire Department made over 1,100 runs in 2025. Over the last 10 years they have seen a 35% increase. The Fire Department has a 3.9 mil levy on the upcoming ballot in May. This levy will help offset the 40% increase in expenses and add one more full-time position. Chief Moenster explained in more detail the increase of cost to individuals on their property taxes. Councilmember Frederick asked if repainting and numbering the fire hydrants was still on the to do list. Chief stated this is a task for their cadets hopefully this summer.

ChoiceOne Engineering

Troy Niese presented an overview of ChoiceOne Engineering. This company is based out of Sydney, Ohio and the closest office is in Loveland. ChoiceOne works with several nearby local municipalities. Administrator Whitacre reminded council that ChoiceOne is currently assisting the Village with updating the Zoning Code. The mayor stated that he spoke with the current mayor of South Lebanon and she spoke highly of ChoiceOne. We will finish out our two active grants (Roachester Booster Station and Welch Road) and then move forward to work with ChoiceOne. Solicitor Kaspar stated that the Village will work on a job/project basis. Discussion followed. Councilmember Hamlin asked if we could change companies later if we are not satisfied. Councilmember Frederick confirmed that it will be project to project.

Vehicles – Resolution Authorizing Sale of Dump Truck pursuant to R.C. 721.15

Second reading of Resolution #6-26 Authorizing the sale of motor vehicle pursuant to revised code 721. Motion – move for reading in title only - second reading Frederick; second Pitzer. All yea.

Police Vehicle – Review

The mayor presented council with the need to place an order for a new police vehicle anticipating that it will not be available until 2027. There have been issues with receiving a cruiser in a timely manner several other times so the mayor would like to be on the list to receive a cruiser when available. Resolution #7-26 authorizing mayor or his designee to purchase a police cruiser and declaring an emergency. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Hamlin; second by Frederick. All yea.

Discussion & Ordinance for Low/Under Speed Vehicles

Solicitor Kaspar informed council he was given information from Chief Kilburn that came from Warren County asking the Village to pass an Ordinance regarding low or under speed vehicles. Discussion followed. Council asked Kaspar to have an Ordinance prepared for the next meeting.

Discussion of Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments

The mayor explained the previous tax administrator had been enforcing a rule from the Ohio Revised Code without bringing it before council and allowing council the opportunity to look over the subparts of said rule. Therefore council, according to the ORC, has the authority to allow the residents the opportunity to decide whether they will pay their taxes monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or at the end of the tax year. The mayor has currently made an executive order that will remain in place until the three readings of Ordinance #2-26 are complete. This Ordinance will be presented at the May meeting.

Warren County Contract regarding Water Billing

Warren County Water and Sewer officials met with the Administrator and Fiscal Officer a few months ago and presented a new contract for the Village of Morrow. This contract reflects a few changes, the first being a charge of 4% of what is collected by the county for the Village. Warren County has never charged the Village for collecting water and trash fees before. This contract has a 20-year agreement and the % charge will be reviewed every 5 years. Councilman Frederick asked for the Village to do a cost analysis in one year. Resolution #10-26 authorizing the mayor to enter into contract with Warren County Water and Sewer and declaring an emergency. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All ye. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All ye.

Discussion of Vacancy on Council

Due to the resignation of George Schraffenberger, an open council position is available. The process for filling this position will require a letter of interest or resume sent to the Clerk of Council by Friday, May 15th at noon. This vacancy will be posted around the Village, on the website and on the digital signs.

Village Officials

The mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Welch Road was signed off on and will be done while school is out for the summer.
2. Booster station in Roachester building should be placed this week. The concrete has been poured and the generator has been delivered.
3. A new restaurant has opened in town and doing well.
4. Mayor asked for a councilmember to replace Schraffenberger on the Planning Commission. Samantha Pitzer will take his place.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on a few items:

Whitacre informed council the second bronze plaque has been added to the historic Railroad Bridge. The results of the CDBG mini pitch soccer field should be known any day. The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company will be coming to do a performance of the play "Much Ado about Nothing: in Phegley park on Friday, August 7th. This event will be free to the community. Whitacre asked those who have not completed their cybersecurity training to please take care of that as soon as possible.

Kaspar read Ordinance #1-26 approving, adopting and enacting American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2026 Edition, as the code of Ordinances for the Village of Morrow and declaring an emergency. Motion to suspend the rules by Cartwright; second by Frederick. All ye. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All ye.

Fiscal Officer requested two adjustments, one for 6884 Woodward Claypool for \$223.60 and for 224 Main for \$3,464.40. Thumbs up was given for both accounts.

Chief Kilburn's meeting at the Warren County Drug Task Force went well and the department was so grateful for Village donating the money made from the sale of the cruiser that was previously donated to the Village from the Sheriff's Department.

Zoning Inspector stated that there are 2 open seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Open to the Floor

The mayor opened the floor.

Andrea Joffe representing the Tree Board asked the mayor to speak with Keith Hayes about being appointed to the Tree Board. The Tree Board will be doing tree inventory around the Village. Joffe is also interested in joining the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Theresa Paynter asked if she could assist in planting the flower boxes and planters around the Village. She asked if the doors in the restroom at Phegley Park could be redone and if there could be a crosswalk placed on the road from the Plaza to the Maag center.

Paul Zorn stated that there is an issue with a sidewalk near his home. He would also like for someone else to take care of raising and lowering the flags at Bishop Park.

The mayor closed the floor.

The mayor introduced Chris Pringle to council and informed them that he was being interviewed for the Tax Administrator position.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session made by Frederick; second by Pitzer. All yea.

Motion to return to regular session made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All yea.

Mayor requested for the council meeting to be moved to 6:30 from now on.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All yea.

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor